Message from the Program Manager

I will be out of the office from October 11th until November 24th due to military obligations. If you require assistance please contact the Dover Headquarters at (302) 739-5665. The Dover Headquarters will be handling all calls and e-mails in order to provide the same level of service departments currently receive.

FEMA will also be assisting the SFMO with any questions or problems; therefore, if SFMO resources are not available please contact them directly at (888) 382-3827.

Important Coding Information

As was published in the last newsletter, the Systems Committee of the National Fire Information Council provided a ruling for incident coding answering the question:

"How should a fire incident when the fire is out prior to the arrival of the fire department be coded?"

Answer:
The incident type would be a fire just as it would be as if the fire is still burning (for example, a building fire is an incident type 111). The actions taken would be investigate or other post fire extinguishment actions.

Please pass this information on to all department members recording incident information, both electronically and manually.

Other Coding Questions

Question:
A volunteer firefighter arrives on the scene of a reported emergency in a personal vehicle, is able to handle the emergency, and cancels all apparatus enroute. Would the volunteer firefighter be responsible for the entire report since he was the only person on-scene or should the apparatus enroute also file a report that they were cancelled enroute?

Answer:
The fire department would be responsible for a single

report on the incident. The times and actions taken on the basic module should reflect the volunteer's arrival time, in-service time, and actions taken. If the fire department is using Apparatus or Resources Module or the Personnel Module, the action taken field on those modules can be used to show each piece of apparatus that was cancelled enroute.

Question:
How do you define automatic aid, mutual aid and other aid?

Answer:
Automatic aid – Based upon a pre-established agreement between two jurisdictions, either fire department provides services to areas that are the responsibility of the other fire department on an automatic basis (does not require a separate request).

Mutual aid – Generally based upon a pre-established agreement between two jurisdictions, either fire department provides services to areas, which are the responsibility of the other fire department on an "as requested" basis, or where there is no automatic aid agreement but the fire department is dispatched to an incident. Such responses to an area where another fire department has jurisdiction should be reported as mutual aid calls regardless of whether the fire department that has jurisdiction responds or not.

Other aid – The fire department provides services to areas that are not the responsibility of any fire department. If the fire department has a contract to provide services to an area, which is not aid given. Those contract areas can be given a separate district identifier to distinguish them for reporting purposes.

Question:
If a member of a fire department is on the scene of an incident, just to take pictures, should that person be listed as part of the responding personnel?

Assistance To Firefighters Grant Awards Announced To Aid America's Firefighters

Over 3300 Fire Departments Receive Over $225 Million in First 13 Weeks

WASHINGTON, DC - Michael D. Brown, Under Secretary of Homeland Security for Emergency Preparedness and Response, announced 306 grants to fire artments throughout the U.S. this week in the thirteenth round of the *2003 Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program*. To date, over 3300 fire departments have received over $225 million to support their role as first responders in the neighborhoods and communities they serve as firefighters.

FY 2003 Award Recipients through 09/12/03

Fire Dept	Category	Federal Share
Bethany Beach	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	$30,435
Carlisle Fire Co.	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	$50,625
Cranston Heights	Fire Operations and Firefighter Safety	$185,037
Total		$266,097

Answer:

Accounting for responding personnel is an option for the fire department. It is suggested that a uniform procedure be developed for a fire department. Things to consider when developing the policy are:

a) While the person is on the scene, are they qualified, equipped and available for other activity if needed? If that person was injured, would they be counted as a fire service casualty? If the answer to either question is yes, they should probably be counted.

Question:

How should a rekindle be reported?

Answer:

The definition of "rekindle" is "The redevelopment of a fire after it was thought to have been extinguished by the original fire service response." For NFIRS purposes, a rekindle should be treated as a separate incident.

For more information regarding the Delaware Fire Incident Reporting System (DFIRS), please contact Crystal Beach at 302-739-5665 or crystal.beach@state.de.us

PLEASE POST FOR ALL DEPARTMENT MEMBERS